



**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

*pw*  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/198,376	11/24/1998	AKIRA OKAMOTO	NU-98035	2418

30743 7590 01/13/2003

WHITHAM, CURTIS & CHRISTOFFERSON, P.C.  
11491 SUNSET HILLS ROAD  
SUITE 340  
RESTON, VA 20190

EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

DATE MAILED: 01/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Notification of Non-Compliance With 37 CFR 1.192(c)</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/198,376	OKAMOTO ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Allen J. Flanigan	3743

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

The Appeal Brief filed on 06 December 2002 is defective for failure to comply with one or more provisions of 37 CFR 1.192(c). See MPEP § 1206.

To avoid dismissal of the appeal, applicant must file IN TRIPPLICATE a complete new brief in compliance with 37 CFR 1.192 (c) within the longest of any of the following three TIME PERIODS: (1)ONE MONTH or THIRTY DAYS from the mailing date of this Notification, whichever is longer; (2) TWO MONTHS from the date of the notice of appeal; or (3) within the period for reply to the action from which this appeal was taken. EXTENSIONS OF THESE TIME PERIODS MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136.

1.  The brief does not contain the items required under 37 CFR 1.192(c), or the items are not under the proper heading or in the proper order.
2.  The brief does not contain a statement of the status of all claims, pending or cancelled, or does not identify the appealed claims (37 CFR 1.192(c)(3)).
3.  At least one amendment has been filed subsequent to the final rejection, and the brief does not contain a statement of the status of each such amendment (37 CFR 1.192(c)(4)).
4.  The brief does not contain a concise explanation of the claimed invention, referring to the specification by page and line number and to the drawing, if any, by reference characters (37 CFR 1.192(c)(5)).
5.  The brief does not contain a concise statement of the issues presented for review (37 CFR 1.192(c)(6)).
6.  A single ground of rejection has been applied to two or more claims in this application, and
  - (a)  the brief omits the statement required by 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7) that one or more claims do not stand or fall together, yet presents arguments in support thereof in the argument section of the brief.
  - (b)  the brief includes the statement required by 37 CFR 1.192(c) (7) that one or more claims do not stand or fall together, yet does not present arguments in support thereof in the argument section of the brief.
7.  The brief does not present an argument under a separate heading for each issue on appeal (37 CFR 1.192(c)(8)).
8.  The brief does not contain a correct copy of the appealed claims as an appendix thereto (37 CFR 1.192(c)(9)).
9.  Other (including any explanation in support of the above items):

Aside from failing to present arguments in support of the separate patentability of claims 26 and 27, the grouping of the claims listed by the appellant would appear to indicate that all claims should stand or fall together. The groupings listed by the appellant are as follows: 6 and 27; 26 and 27, and 1 & 4-6. Thus, since claim 6 is groupable with both claim 27 and claims 1, 4, and 5 (and thus is presumably not patentably distinct from any of these claims), claim 27 is presumably groupable together with claims 1, 4, and 5. Similarly, since claims 6 and 26 are both groupable with claim 27, they are also presumably groupable together, and with claims 1, 4, and 5. Thus, it would appear that all claims should stand or fall together.



Allen J. Flanigan  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 3743